

Shrewsbury Commission on Disabilities
Minutes of May 11, 2005, 7:00pm
Meeting Room A, Town Hall

The meeting was called to order by Gail Sokolowski at 7:00 pm

In Attendance

Keith Willette - Chair
Gail Sokolowski - Vice Chair
Barbara Smith - Secretary
Loretta Henry - Senior Center Liason
Jerry Berrier - Communication and Web Site Liason

Approval of Commission Minutes

Ms. Henry motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 11, 2005. Seconded by Mr. Berrier.

Guests

None

Town Liason Report

Dan Morgado was not in attendance due to obligations for another meeting. Keith Willette mentioned that we were waiting for a response from Mr. Morgado concerning the high volume of the audible traffic light in the center of town. He needed to have a discussion with the Town Engineer. This issue may need to be addressed at the state level. Mr. Willette stated he is planning on meeting with Mr. Morgado prior to future Commission meetings.

Appointments

None

Bills

None

Phone Log

None

Member Discussion/Old Business

Mr. Willette further discussed the issue of making a video concerning disability issues. He stated that he will contact the cable company in the upcoming week for more information on the kind of assistance they can offer in making the video. Topics the Commission felt should be addressed were ADA Transportation, information on various disabilities and proper regard for pedestrian traffic. Gail Sokolowski suggested that Mr. Willette contact the Mass Office on Disability concerning any videos that they have produced and perhaps modifying these videos to address Shrewsbury's needs. Loretta Henry stated that Cynthia Willis at the Senior Center offered to help with gathering transportation information. Barbara Smith stated it would be important to include information on the availability of disability resources for residents and where they can access information.

The Commission discussed the process for replacing Gail Sokolowski as a Commission member due to her leaving for other commitments. Ms. Sokolowski stated that Dan Morgado would handle the search and it would be either an appointed or an elected official. Mr. Berrier expressed gratitude for all the work Ms. Sokolowski has contributed to the Commission over the years.

Mr. Berrier also expressed concern that there is still money available (approx \$10,000) which was allocated over a year ago, and has not yet been spent to address accessibility upgrades in town buildings by the Public Buildings Department. Ms. Sokolowski stated that a few things have already been done by the town and had discussed with Mr. Morgado about having an outside contractor complete the work. However, this would be more costly and may not cover all the improvements that were on a priority list done by the Commission in the past. Accessibility work from the outside into the building was a priority. Mr. Berrier was going to send Mr. Willette minutes from the Commission meeting when these issues were discussed. Ms. Sokolowski stated that the money was allocated for a two year period and there may actually be \$20,000.00 available. She stated that automatic doors and lowering of counter levels in each department (particularly the Parks and Rec department) were initially listed as priorities. Mr. Berrier stated that there was a need to keep these issues on the town's "radar screen" and not have them go to the bottom of the town's priority list.

Old Business

Keith Willette stated that he has left two messages to Chief Wayne Sampson concerning the crosswalk between the post office and White Hen Pantry. He

recently had another experience when he was with his son that a vehicle didn't yield to the them standing in the pedestrian crosswalk.

Barbara Smith motioned to accept the minutes from the last meeting.
Loretta Henry seconded the motion.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2005 at 7 pm at Town Hall, Meeting Room A.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm by Jerry Berrier and seconded by Loretta Henry.

Respectfully Submitted by
Barbara Smith